OMRI DAILY DIGEST
No. 20, 27 January 1995

BALTIC STATES PLAN UNIFIED AIRSPACE. The Estonian General Staff announced on 25 January that senior air force officers from the Baltic Republics have proposed a single airspace monitoring system. Interfax reports that the system would combine military and civilian radar sites and would be part of a future unified air defense system. Such a system was approved in principle by Baltic military leaders in November. - Doug Clarke, OMRI, Inc.

ESTONIAN PRESIDENT IN SWITZERLAND. Lennart Meri returned to Tallinn on 26 January after a five-day working visit to Switzerland, BNS reports. During his trip, he met with members of the Zurich regional parliament and gave a speech at the Vontobel Bank's annual meeting of diplomats and financial leaders. He also held talks in Bern with President of the Swiss Confederation Kaspar Villiger and the heads of both chambers of the Swiss parliament. The talks focused on Estonia's political development and how the war in Chechnya would affect relations between Russia and Europe. The Estonian president also addressed the Institute for International Relations in Bern and helped persuade several well-known Swiss companies to open subsidiaries in Estonia. - Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

NEW LATVIAN HEALTH MINISTER. The Latvian parliament on 26 January approved the candidacy of Peteris Apinis as health minister, BNS reports. The 37-year-old Apinis replaces Normunds Zemvaldis, who resigned on 16 January. A graduate from the Riga Medical Institute in 1982, Apinis was one of the founders of the Latvian Physicians' Society and is currently its vice president. The Saeima also approved Latvia's Way member Mariss Andersons as parliament deputy, replacing Valdis Birkavs, who has suspended his mandate during his term in office as foreign minister. - Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.